

## **REMARKS**

Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment-A the claims in the application are claims 1-3, of which claim 1 is independent.

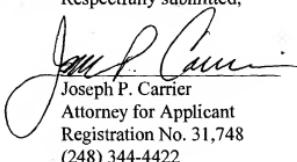
The specification has been amended to overcome minor informalities therein, and to be more consistent throughout.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Additionally, pursuant to MPEP 2001.06(b), applicant respectfully submits that the present application may be considered related to the following co-pending applications, all of which are owned by the owner/assignee of the present application, Honda Giken Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha: 09/728,511; 10/102,572; 10/171,007; 10/273,314; 10/286,541; 10/341,634; and 10/346,517. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the present application claims subject matter which is patentably distinct from the subject matter claimed in each of the related applications.

Respectfully submitted,



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